Declassified and Approved For Release @ 50-Yr 2014/03/25 : CIA-RDP61-00357R000200040014-1

Humphrey Raps AEC On A-Data

By Chalmers M. Roberts
Staff Reporter

Senate Disarmament Subcommittee Chairman Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) yesterday rapped the knuckles of the Atomic Energy Commission for an admittedly wrong statement on how far away an underground nuclear test could be detected.

The AEC had announced on March 6 that earth waves from the 1.7 kiloton shot, known as Rainier, in Nevada last Sept. 19 "were recorded at seismological stations at Los Angeles, about 250 miles, air line, from the shot mesa. This was the maximum distance at which the shock was recorded."

On Monday, however, AEC put out a correction deleting those sentences from its report and substituting a statement that Coast and Geodetic Survey stations "as far away as College (near Fairbanks) Alaska, about 2300 miles from the shot mesa, recorded the earth waves."

The difference—250 miles vs. 2300 miles—is a highly important point in the controversy over whether the Soviet Union could...

...ment yesterday that the first AEC report was "totally and completely wrong," that his subcommittee and "other observers" had brought the "error" to the AEC's attention and that Harold E. Stassen, President Eisenhower's former disarmament aide, had publicly testified a week before the first AEC release that the Nevada test had been picked up on "every seismic instrument within 1000 miles."

The Senator commented that the AEC statements gave "the impression that scientific facts are being used by someone to prove a political point, a dangerous concept to perpetuate in our effort to work out effective arms control agreements."

Humphrey noted that an adequate inspection system was a vital necessity in any agreement with the Soviet Union and that reliable information on such matters as seismic readings of underground nuclear explosions was "imperative."

He went on to say that not only had the Coast and Geodetic station in Alaska picked up the explosion but that nine such stations more than 250 miles from the site had made accurate readings, 10 others had made less clear readings and eight more have yet to be heard from or to have their data analyzed. Only one station, 1400 miles away in St. Louis, had a negative...

Declassified and Approved For Release @ 50-Yr 2014/03/25 : CIA-RDP61-00357R000200040014-1